

sit on the peeling & loose bark & pick out any of these snails that may be resting down in the bottom where the dead bark meets the tree."

December 13. On coast opposite Chatham Island: "*Strepera* numerous."

December 15. "*Strepera plumbea* . . . noisy again."

December 25. "*Strepera plumbea* calling and about camp."

December 26. "Saw *Strepera plumbea* in a large Xmas tree feeding large young which were able to fly, the cry of these young when being fed is like the notes uttered by the young of *Gymnorhina tibicen* of N.S.W."

January 13, 1913. "Saw several young *Strepera plumbea* about today & well feathered & able to fly & feed about. They cry like a young magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) when being fed by parents & even when able to fly about."

January 16. "Found nest of *Strepera plumbea* about 60 feet up in a yellow Tingle Tingle tree (*Eucalyptus*), nest large stick structure."

## THE NESTING OF THE MANED GOOSE, OR WOOD DUCK, ON THE WARREN RIVER

By A. D. JONES, Manjimup.

Having learned that Maned Geese or Wood Ducks (*Chenonetta jubata*) were to be found some 20 miles south-east of Manjimup, I visited the locality on October 7, 1950 in the hope that the birds had nested in the vicinity and that I might procure some young ones for my sanctuary at Middlesex.

Two pairs were seen on cleared country through which the Perup River meanders to its junction with the Tone nearby. The country is open and well grassed with scattered bracken and an occasional ring-barked gum. These were the first specimens of this water fowl I had seen. Mr. Shirley Muir, the owner of the property, assured me that later in the season they were to be seen here in great numbers.

The locality was evidently excellent duck country. No less than five different batches of Black Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) were noted on a river frontage of not more than 400 yards, three of them within 100 yards of the homestead, sufficient evidence of Mr. Muir's policy of not allowing anyone to molest his wild life.

I could not, however, discover anything to suggest that the Wood Ducks had any young with them.

Some days prior to this visit a young scout had reported that while repairing a fence near the Wilgarup River, some miles north of the previous position, his dog had captured and brought to him what he believed to be a young specimen of the Wood Duck. How-

ever, he did not think there were others as the parents had not since behaved as though there were ducklings about. He had located what he considered the nesting site which he agreed to show me at some future date.

On October 8 my sanctuary was visited by Major H. M. Whit-tell, to whom I reported the above incident. He was most interested and indicated that any definite proof that the Wood Duck nested in these areas would be most pleasing to him.

Accordingly on October 11 I called on the owner of the property who permitted me to explore the river frontage, and with my young seout as guide we set out for the nesting site. This proved to be a venerable gum standing within 60 feet of the water, with a large lower limb broken off close to the trunk 20-odd feet from the ground. Pieces of down could be seen clinging to the rough edges and a search in the undergrowth beneath revealed several pieces of shell, whitish and stained and several soiled membranes, indicating that many eggs, approximating the measurements supplied in *Birds of Western Australia* for this species, had been hatched there.

We proceeded down river as quietly as possible under the circumstances, as although the area to one side of the stream was cleared and pastured to within a chain or so of the water, the actual bank on both sides was littered with fallen timber, flood debris, growing timber, undergrowth and sword grass.

The male bird was seen on the water approximately 200 yards from the nesting site, but the female was not in sight, which led me to believe that possibly a batch of young was nearby. As the male bird had made off up the opposite bank of the river we crossed and carefully explored the area, eventually flushing the female from a clump of sword grass 20 to 25 ft. from the water. There were no ducklings with her but perseverance discovered them 6 or 8 ft. away in country we had previously looked over. They scattered immediately they realised they had been discovered, and after the confusion which followed we agreed that 9 to 11 ducklings were about. After some tumbles and scratches we secured three individuals. They were well grown, almost completely feathered, and would be from 6 to 8 weeks old.

They were released in an enclosure with some young Black Duck which had already settled down and quickly adjusted themselves to the changed diet and conditions.

One of the ducklings died, apparently through being injured by some other inmate of the "home." The two survivors are apparently well content and doing well at the moment of writing (November 14). They make quite good subjects, adapt themselves readily and have none of the furtiveness of the Black Duck. This latter, I find, is far more difficult to approach than anything else in my collection. The Chestnut Teal ducklings, although not so long with me, are not nearly so furtive and shy.